



February 2012

Simple Online Tool Helps You Adjust Watering to the Weather

During the winter months, our landscapes don't need as much water due to rain, cooler temperatures, shorter days, and plant dormancy. To save water and save money on your bill, adjust your sprinkler timer to seasonal fluctuations with a simple tool on the City's website. The Watering Index is a percentage value of how much water plants need that accounts for changes in weather. Basically, it tells you how much to water, based off your peak summer watering. For example, in the hottest summer weather, the Watering Index is at 100%, but throughout the year this value drops and in the winter will go to about 30% or below.

The Watering Index value can be found on SaveWaterSB.org, and it is updated weekly. With this percentage value, you are able to adjust your sprinkler controller with one simple step. Turn the dial on your controller to the "seasonal adjust" or "water budget" setting and press the up or down arrows to adjust the percentage to match the current Watering Index. This will automatically shorten the run times of your sprinklers so that they are not over-watering your garden. Some people choose to adjust their sprinkler controller weekly, monthly, or seasonally. Also, a sticker is available from the City to place on your sprinkler timer which has a "QR" code that you can scan with your smart phone to easily access the Watering Index.

The City provides free irrigation evaluations to homes or businesses to help you set up and adjust your sprinkler controller; if you would like to set up an appointment, call 564-5460.